

The FCC site says only that the media ownership rules in question are up for review. But I read in the Texas A&M University newspaper (S. Monk, Battalion, April 24, 2003) that M. Powell actually favors eliminating these rules. If this is really being contemplated, it would severely compromise the media competition, diversity, and localism that the FCC says it wants to promote. I am dismayed that the FCC would even consider this attack on the American way of life. And I am appalled that I had to read a university newspaper to learn the truth. The five-year Project for Excellence in Journalism concluded, "regulatory changes that encourage heavy concentration of ownership in local television by a few large corporations will erode the quality of news Americans receive." The FCC should retain and even strengthen the media ownership rules at issue, because an informed public and a free, diverse media are essential to a democracy.